a plurality of buyers conforming to a seller defined class of buyers for communicating RFQs to said filter means;

a plurality of sellers conforming to a buyer defined class of sellers for communicating quotes to said filter means in response to a specific RFQ of said RFQs, said filter means including means for determining, based upon said filter conditions, which sellers should receive RFQs from a buyer and to which [quotes] RFQs should the sellers respond.

2. (Amended) A method of utilizing a data network for advertising and selling items [for sale by a seller] including the steps of:

communicating, to centralized filter means, from a plurality of sellers, information indicating items offered for sale to at least one seller defined class of buyers to receive the information;

communicating, to the centralized filter means, from a potential buyer, a category of item in which said buyer is interested and a buyer defined class of sellers to receive the information;

using said centralized filter means to match buyer and seller classes;

communicating the information from said class of buyers to said buyer defined class of sellers; and

communicating an offer for sale from at least one of said sellers for at least one item in said category of items indicated, to a buyer if said buyer is within said class and said items are within said category.

3. (Amended) A method for effectuating a purchase between a buyer conforming to a seller defined class of buyers and a seller selected from a plurality of sellers conforming to a buyer defined class of sellers over a computer communications network, comprising the steps of:

> providing over said network a page including information of each of a plurality of seller's offers and at least one hypertext link for said buyer to make a response;

displaying said hypertext link containing page to said buyer; and



sending a purchase request by said buyer to said selected seller clicking on said hypertext link.

- 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said step of sending a purchase request is completed by simply clicking on said hypertext link without inputting further information.
 - 5. The method of claim 3 wherein said purchase request includes a consent that said seller is authorized to use buyer's credit information to fulfill said purchase.
 - 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of sending a purchase request is completed by clicking on said hypertext link.
 - 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said action of clicking is taken only once.
 - 8. The method of claim 5 wherein said credit information includes buyer's billing and shipping information sufficient to effectuate the purchase.
 - 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said buyer's credit information is prestored in a server.



- 10. (Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said server is remotely located and accessible by said seller through said network.
- 11. The method of claim 3 wherein said hypertext link containing page is an email message.
- 12. The method of claim 3 wherein said hypertext link containing page is a web page.
- 13. The method of claim 3 wherein said purchase request is sent as an email request by clicking on said hypertext link.
- 14. The method of claim 3 wherein said purchase request is sent directly to said seller by clicking on said hypertext link.
- 15. (Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said page includes at least one hypertext link for further showing said information of said offer.
- 16. (Amended)The method of claim 3 wherein said page is provided by said seller directly to said buyer.



- 17. (Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said page is provided by a central processing unit remotely accessible by said buyer and said seller through said communications network.
- 18. (Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein said purchase request is sent to said central processing unit.
- 19. The method of claim 3 wherein said step of displaying is implemented by a browser.
- 20. (Amended) A method of effectuating a purchase between a buyer and a seller over a computer communications network, comprising the steps of:

defining a class of buyers;

defining a class of sellers;

providing credit information of said buyer to a seller;

providing over said computer communications network, from one or more sellers to said buyer, a page including information of each seller's offer and at least one hypertext link for said buyer to make a response; displaying each said hypertext link containing page to said buyer;

selecting one of said one or more sellers;

sending a purchase request by said buyer to the selected seller by clicking on said hypertext link; and

fulfilling said purchase [upon receipt of said purchase] request from said buyer.

- 21. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said server is maintained by a central processing unit remotely located and accessible by said buyer and said seller through said network.
- 22. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein said step of displaying is carried out by said central processing unit.
- 23. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of displaying is carried out by said seller.
- 24. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said page is an email message.
- 25. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said page is a web page.



- 26. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein at said step of sending said purchase request is directly sent to said seller.
- 27. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein at said step of sending said purchase request is sent to said central processing unit.
- 28. The method of claim 20 further including a step of: retrieving by said seller, upon receipt of said purchase request from said buyer, of said buyer's credit information kept on said server so as to fulfill said purchase.
- 29. (Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said step of fulfilling comprises a step of clearing credit of said buyer directly by said seller.
- 30. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein said step of fulfilling comprises a step of clearing credit of said buyer by said central processing unit.
- 31. (Amended) A computerized system for effectuating a purchase between a buyer conforming to a seller defined class of buyers and a seller selected from a plurality of potential sellers conforming to a buyer defined class of sellers over a communications network, comprising:

means for each of said plurality of potential sellers to provide a page including information of at least one offer and at least one hypertext link for said buyer to make a response;

means for said seller to transmit at least one said hypertext link containing page to said buyer;

means for said buyer to receive and display said at least one hypertext link containing page; and

means for said buyer to click on a selected one of said at least one hypertext link to send a purchase request in response to said offer.

- 32. The system of claim 31 further comprising means for keeping credit information of said buyer that is accessible to said seller.
- 33. The system of claim 32 wherein said means for keeping buyer's credit information is accessible to said seller only upon receipt of said purchase request from said buyer.



- 34. The system of claim 33 wherein said purchase request includes an identifier for said buyer with which said seller may access said buyer's credit information.
- 35. The system of claim 32 wherein said means for keeping buyer's credit information is a server.
- 36. The system of claim 35 wherein said server is remotely located from both said buyer and said seller, and is connected to said buyer and said seller through said network.
- 37. (Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein said page is an email message.
- 38. (Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein said page further comprises at least one hypertext link for further showing said information of said quotation offer.
- 39. The system of claim 32 further including means for inputting said buyer's credit information into said means for keeping said buyer's credit information.
- 40. The system of claim 31 further including a website of said seller, accessible by said buyer through said network, for providing said hypertext link containing page to said buyer.
- 41. The system of claim 40 wherein said network is an Internet network.
- 42. (Amended) A method of enabling a buyer conforming to a seller defined class of buyers to purchase an item over a communications network from a remote system, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a hypertext link indicative of a desire to place an electronic purchase order;

in response to said step of selecting, transmitting at least one electronic purchase order to a seller conforming to a buyer defined class of sellers; and

in response to said step of transmitting, providing credit information of the buyer maintained at said remote system to complete the purchase of said item.

5